

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-83. (cancelled)

84. (currently amended) In a computer operating environment comprising a software program and a software resource, an apparatus for limiting use of said software resource by said software program, comprising:

an access authorization indicator included in the software program associating the a software program and a software resource, said access authorization indicator comprising one or more license terms to allow said software program to use said software resource; and  
a digital signature of said access authorization indicator.

85. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 84 further comprising:

a license verification module included in the software resource and configurable ~~means in~~  
~~said software resource~~ for reading said access authorization indicator;<sub>1;</sub>

~~means in said software resource~~ for determining whether said access authorization  
indicator is valid;<sub>2;</sub> and<sub>3;</sub>

~~means~~ for allowing said software program to use said software resource only if said  
access authorization indicator is determined to be valid.

86. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 84 wherein said access authorization  
indicator comprises terms of a site license.

87. (canceled).

88. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 84 wherein said software resource comprises an Application Program Interface~~API~~.

89. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 84 wherein said software resource comprises a runtime library.

90. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 84 wherein said software resource comprises a dynamic link library.

91. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 84 wherein said software resource comprises an applet.

92. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 84 wherein said software resource comprises a bytecode package.

93. (canceled)

94. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 84 wherein said software resource comprises an Object Linking and Embedding~~OLE~~ enabled application program.

95. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 85 ~~87~~ wherein said access authorization indicator is specified in a constant declaration area of said software program.

96. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 85 ~~87~~ wherein said access authorization indicator comprises a property of a property list of said software program.

97. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 85 further comprising an identifier associated with said access authorization indicator and wherein said license verification module

~~is configurable means for determining the validity of said access authorization indicator~~  
~~comprises means~~ for determining whether said access authorization indicator is valid based on said identifier.

98. (original) The apparatus of claim 97 further comprising means for receiving said identifier from an end user.

99. (original) The apparatus of claim 98 further comprising means for storing said identifier in said software resource.

100. (original) The apparatus of claim 97 wherein said identifier is embedded in said software program.

101. (original) The apparatus of claim 100 wherein said identifier is specified in a constant declaration area of said software program.

102. (original) The apparatus of claim 100 wherein said identifier comprises a property of a property list of said software program.

103. (original) The apparatus of claim 97 wherein said means for determining whether said access authorization indicator is valid based upon said identifier comprises a means for digital signature authentication.

104. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 84 further comprising means for determining whether said one or more license terms are met.

105. (original) The apparatus of claim 97 wherein:  
said software program comprises said access authorization indicator and said identifier;

said access authorization indicator comprises terms of a license for use of said software resource;

said identifier comprises a digital signature of said access authorization indicator.

106. (currently amended) In a computer operating environment, a method for limiting use of a software resource by a software program comprising:

receiving a request from a software program to use a software resource;

obtaining an access authorization indicator from ~~associating~~ said software program with said software resource, said access authorization indicator comprising one or more license terms to allow said software program to use said software resource; and,

obtaining a digital signature of said access authorization indicator.

107. (original) The method of claim 106, further comprising:

determining whether said access authorization indicator is valid; and,

allowing said software program to use said software resource only if said access authorization indicator is determined to be valid.

108. (previously presented) The method of claim 106 wherein said one or more license terms comprises a site license.

109. (previously presented) The method of claim 106 wherein said access authorization indicator is embedded in said software program.

110. (currently amended) The method of claim 106 where said software resource comprises an Application Program Interface~~API~~.

111. (previously presented) The method of claim 106 wherein said software resource comprises a runtime library.

112. (previously presented) The method of claim 106 wherein said software resource comprises a dynamic link library.

113. (previously presented) The method of claim 106 wherein said software resource comprises an applet.

114. (previously presented) The method of claim 106 wherein said software resource comprises a bytecode package.

115. (currently amended) The method of claim 106 wherein said software resource comprises an Object Linking and Embedding~~OLE~~ enabled application program.

116. (original) The method of claim 109 wherein said access authorization indicator is specified in a constant declaration area of said software program.

117. (original) The method of claim 109 wherein said access authorization indicator comprises a property of a property list area of said software program.

118. (original) The method of claim 107 wherein said determining the validity of said access authorization indicator comprises determining whether said access authorization indicator is valid based on an identifier associated with said access authorization indicator.

119. (original) The method of claim 118 further comprising accepting said identifier from a user.

120. (original) The method of claim 119 further comprising storing said identifier in said software resource.

121. (original) The method of claim 118 wherein said identifier is embedded in said software program.

122. (original) The method of claim 121 wherein said identifier is specified in a constant declaration area of said software program.

123. (currently amended) The method of claim 121 wherein said identifier comprises a ~~property of a~~ property of property list area of said software program.

124. (original) The method of claim 118 wherein a digital signature authentication means is used in determining whether said access authorization indicator is valid based upon said identifier.

125. (previously presented) The method of claim 106 further comprising determining whether said terms of said license are met.

126. (original) The method of claim 118 wherein:  
said software program comprises said access authorization indicator and said identifier;  
said access authorization indicator comprises terms of a license for use of said software resource;  
said identifier comprises a digital signature of said access authorization indicator.

127. (currently amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for limiting use of a software resource by a software program, said method comprising:  
receiving a request from a software program to use a software resource;

obtaining an access authorization indicator ~~associating~~ from said software program with said software resource, said access authorization indicator comprising one or more terms of license to allow said software program to use said software resource; and,  
obtaining a digital signature of said access authorization indicator.

128. (original) The program storage device of claim 127, further comprising:  
determining whether said access authorization indicator is valid; and,  
allowing said software program to use said software resource only if said access authorization indicator is determined to be valid.

129. (previously presented) The program storage device of claim 127 wherein said one or more license terms comprises a site license.

130. (previously presented) The program storage device of claim 127 wherein said access authorization indicator is embedded in said software program.

131. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 127 wherein said software resource comprises an Application Program Interface~~API~~.

132. (previously presented) The program storage device of claim 127 wherein said software resource comprises a runtime library.

133. (previously presented) The program storage device of claim 127 wherein said software resource comprises a dynamic link library.

134. (previously presented) The program storage device of claim 127 wherein said software resource comprises an applet.

135. (previously presented) The program storage device of claim 127 wherein said software resource comprises a bytecode package.

136. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 127 wherein said software resource comprises an Object Linking and Embedding~~OLE~~ enabled application program.

137. (original) The method of claim 130 wherein said access authorization indicator is specified on a constant declaration area of said software program.

138. (original) The program storage device of claim 130 wherein said access authorization indicator comprises a property of a property list area of said software program.

139. (original) the program storage device of claim 128 wherein said determining the validity of said access authorization indicator comprises determining whether said access authorization indicator.

140. (original) The program storage device of claim 139 wherein said method further comprises accepting said identifier from a user.

141. (original) The program storage device of claim 140 wherein said method further comprises storing said identifier in said software resource.

142. (original) The program storage device of claim 139 wherein said identifier is embedded in said software program.

143. (original) The program storage device of claim 142 wherein said identifier is specified in a constant declaration are of said software program.



144. (original) The program storage device of claim 142 wherein said identifier comprises a property of a property list area of said software program.

145. (original) The program storage device of claim 139 wherein a digital signature authentication means is used in determining whether said access authorization indicator is valid based upon said identifier.

146. (previously presented) The program storage device of claim 127 in which said method further comprises determining whether said one or more licenses terms are met.

147. (original) The program storage device of claim 139 wherein:  
said software program comprises said access authorization indicator and said identifier;  
said access authorization indicator comprises terms of a license for use of said software resources;  
said identifier comprises a digital signature of said access authorization indicator.